

Matthew Linkletter
Athens
LD 1109

Good morning,

My name is Matthew Linkletter from Athens, Maine. Thank you for allowing this submission to speak to this issue today.

I am writing to urge you to oppose Maine House Bill 1109. This is nothing but an infringement of our 2nd amendment rights. This bill seeks to punish law abiding citizens who currently legally own the very items being proposed to be banned, and to be made criminal.

These magazines are not "high/large capacity" because they are more than the arbitrary number of 10 that a politician has decided upon. They are standard capacity for most modern firearms sold in the US today. These magazines are the vast majority of all magazines in circulation today lawfully. Anyone familiar with firearms can attest this fact and studies have consistently revealed it. Of the 963 Million magazine produced and sold between 1990 and 2021, 74% (717 million) are magazines over 10 rounds. This is revealed in the following study.

"The data establishes that law-abiding gun owners overwhelmingly choose magazines that have a capacity to hold more than ten rounds for lawful purposes including self-defense, target shooting and hunting," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President & General Counsel.

About 46 percent of the magazines estimated in this study are rifle magazines with 30+ round capacity. The percentage of detachable magazines at 11+ capacity is about 55 percent of total pistol magazines. The amount of 10 and below capacity rifle magazines supplied from the manufacturer is over one and a half times the amount of 30+ capacity rifle magazines. The consumer market totals of rifle magazines show 30+ capacity magazines, over 413 million, are over 30 times the amount available than 10 and below capacity rifle magazines, about 13 million.

Further examination of the data proves that of the 717,900,000 detachable magazines for pistols and rifles with a capacity greater than 10 rounds, 209,145,000 pistol magazines are in circulation from combined sales through firearm manufacturers (those magazines included with the firearm) and aftermarket production. Rifle magazines with a capacity greater than 10 rounds accounted for 508,755,000 and rifle magazines with a capacity of 30 rounds or greater totaled an estimated 448,369,000 from combined sale of those included with a firearm at sale and the aftermarket. Just 245,872,000 pistol and rifle magazines with a capacity of 10 rounds or less are in circulation when accounting for the magazines included with a firearm from the manufacturer and the aftermarket."

<https://nssfresearch.s3.amazonaws.com/Detachable-Magazine-NSSFReport.pdf>

This is an uniformed effort at virtue signaling that will do absolutely nothing to prevent violent crime. This is also tone deaf to the rich firearms culture of our state. No violent criminal will pause to consider if they are breaking the magazine ban law before committing a series of other violent crimes breaking countless other laws. It will however make many law abiding citizens suddenly criminal overnight, who want nothing more than to protect themselves and their family from that very violence.

The FBI reported in 2019 that 9000 to 11,000 homicides deaths occur annually by firearm in our nation from 2015-2019

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-8.xls>

A CDC Report, commissioned by president Barrack Obama in 2013, indicated that on average, 500,000 to 3 million times every year, firearms are used in a lawful defensive way to prevent such crime in the United States (below cited study, chapter 3, pg 15). This is, at worst, a 50:1 ratio of a law abiding citizen using a firearm to defend themselves compared to the criminal use of that firearm in a homicide.

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/18319/chapter/1>
<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/18319/chapter/2>
<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/18319/chapter/3>

Why does legislation never target the mental health aspects of this violent crime, or see harsher penalties for violent crime, and always target those who have not committed any crimes in the name of safety? Shouldn't laws seek to make it easier for the law abiding citizen to protect himself and his family? Why should I as a law abiding citizen have my ability to defend my family infringed upon while, by definition, those intent on breaking the law will remain unaffected by said laws they have decide to break? Will it really make us safer from people intent on harming others if they reload 1 time to our 2 times?

This is not good for our state and not good for us as citizens. I urge you to stand against this foolishness. Thank you for your time and consideration.

,Matthew Linkletter